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What's on the Moon

By Scriven Bolton, F. R. A. S.

Such is the power of our largest telescopes that a creature as large as an elephant might be detected on the moon. Hence we are more familiar with the lunar surface than with Central Africa. Since there is no appreciable air on the moon, our view is always clear and unobstructed.

Why has the moon no atmosphere? Simply because the force of gravity is so small. The weight of an object on any planet depends upon the mass of that planet. On Jupiter, the largest of all planets, you would have difficulty in lifting your arm from your side. On the Sun you would probably need a steam crane to help you move about. On Mars you could jump over a small house. Small planets including the earth, are gradually losing their atmosphere. The smaller they are the more rapid is that rate of loss. And since the moon is very small, it lost its atmosphere long ago. Thus is to be explained the fact that the earth is wrapped in air although the moon, child of the earth though it is, is airless. Because of this entire absence of air astronomers consider it improbable that there is any lunar life. Perhaps there may be remnants of vegetation within certain low lying craters and in the deepest valleys and chasms where a few shreds of atmosphere may still pervade. But nothing of the kind has as yet been detected, and as we gaze in bewilderment into every crack and crevice of the surface we rightly conclude that the moon is a truly barren world.

On Top of a Lunar Mountain

Although we cannot fully realize existence on the moon, it is nevertheless the inevitable experience of the astronomer when telescopically raking the lunar surface with what might be justifiably termed an eye of the earth to identify himself to such extent with the scrutinized scene that he oftentimes unconsciously thinks himself a lunar inhabitant. It really requires but little imagination to suppose oneself actually planted among the lunar craters and mountains, viewing in awe the wonderful landscape.

Now let us endeavor to real-

ize, by the help of the accompanying illustrations, that we have taken our stand upon one of the mountain peaks such as we see in these pictures, and by commanding an extended view of the surroundings we duly note the strange lunar conditions produced upon the landscape.

Dawn is as Harsh as Midday

The lunar day is thirteen times longer than ours. Dawn, in an earthly sense, is unknown, for there is no atmosphere to reflect the solar beams while the sun is yet below the horizon. The terribly harsh solar beams suddenly appear on the black horizon dazzlingly illuminating the mountain crests, while the valleys are still in utter darkness. Because there is no atmosphere, blending of the night into day at sunrise is unknown, and all the gorgeous tints which attend a terrestrial sunrise are on the moon quite absent. On earth we are accustomed to see the sun's light softened by an airscreen. The fierce splendor of our luminary on the moon, however, is rendered more obvious by the blackness of the sky, owing to the absence of air. Even in broad sunshine the sky is as dark as our darkest starlight nights, with the stars and planets shining more brightly than it is possible to see them here. The appendages to the sun, such as the Zodiacal Light, the Corona, and the red protuberances, appear in glorious perfection.

What a magnificent object is the earth, thirteen times larger than the moon appears to us, and practically stationary in the heavens! It exhibits phases precisely as does our moon, the interval between each full "earth" being about twenty-nine days. The sublime and periodical spectacles of a total solar eclipse and an eclipse of the "earth" are attended by circumstances far more imposing than their earthly counterparts. The spectator sees the earth-globe rotating on its axis, the continents, oceans, and polar snow caps being well displayed. Portions of the surface appear intermittently obscured by slowly-moving white vapor in the terrestrial envelope, lying usually in long streaks roughly parallel to the equator.

The Terrible Desolation

Light Opera "MIKADO," To Be Given Here



The Chautauqua program includes the noted Hinshaw Opera Company, who will give Gilbert & Sullivan's opera, "The Mikado," for their night program on the third day of the big Assembly. "The Mikado" is the greatest light-opera ever written, and is full of beautiful melody and the funniest comedy ever put into opera. The Japanese costumes and settings are elaborate and handsome. The Hinshaw Opera Singers include nine artists, one of them one of the leading comedians in America. Their two Chautauqua appearances will be remembered as among the finest musical entertainments ever given in this city.

THE CASTLE SQUARE ENTERTAINERS that give the opening program at the Chautauqua are not only a good male quartet, but a cornet quartet, a violin quartet, as well as comedians of great ability. The Castle Squares were organized fifteen years ago.

As a special feature for the children, Mr. Conrad of the company will put on his comical ventriloquist's "stunts." This always makes a great hit.

The Chautauqua is the champion of neighborhood life at its best. The Chautauqua appeals to and is for the whole family. It pulls with father and mother for the best interest of the children. It glorifies home life, and is always safe, sane and conservative.

Chautauqua brings wholesome entertainment, good music, inspiring lectures and the association with men and women of high ideals, great achievement and good character.

Our citizens should make it a special point to get all the weeds cut about their property and the lawns trimmed and everything made "spick and span" for Chautauqua week. The city may expect, besides the Chautauqua attractions themselves, a number of visitors here at that time and what a fine thing it would be to receive them in our best dress.

The only trouble with the Chautauqua is, it doesn't come often enough, nor stay long enough.

of the Moon

And now assuming that we have planted ourselves upon a more elevated portion of the moon, our attention, which has been directed to the sky is now concentrated upon the surrounding landscape. We behold everywhere a scene representing the wildest desolation. The shadows assume total blackness and appear quite impenetrable to one's vision; for absence of an atmosphere means no diffusion of light. In stepping behind a boulder or any other part which does not receive the direct rays of the sun, one becomes invisible. Volcanic cones, ranging in diameter from a few hundred feet to many miles, littered crowd the surface as far as the eye can reach. At a distance of forty miles or so the summits of a gigantic mountain range are seen peering above the horizon, and as clearly defined as the adjacent neighborhood. It is difficult if not nearly impossible to pass correct judgment on the distance of the various features owing to the lack of aerial perspective. The region close by is seen to be composed chiefly of hills of volcanic debris, rocks, bottomless pits, yawning crevasses and piles of slag—doubtless a scene of inconceivable commotion in ages antedating mortal history, but now a world devoid of sound or disturbance, and minus evidence of organic life. Indeed we realize that we are in touch with a world devoid of sound or disturbance, and minus evidence of organic life. Indeed we realize that we are in touch with a world which is typical of a dream of lifelessness, an apparition denoting not death, but a world upon which life has never appeared. No atmospheric elements have been at work to tarnish the pristine hues of

many parts which bear every evidence of having passed through a fiery ordeal. The entire surface is one of dreadful contrast; the dazzling brightness of the landscape compared with the hard black shadows; the black sky, even at noon, with the sun shedding a ghastly overpowering light; these conditions, together with no trace of life, form a scene of dreary desolation, but nevertheless one of sublime grandeur.

The Deathly Silence of the Moon

Although the sun pours his heat upon the surface throughout the long lunar day, which comprises over three hundred of our days, yet the rocks remain too cold to touch with safety. Everywhere there reigns the silence of death. Occasional land-slides, cracking of the surface and shrinkage commotions, dislocation of piled up volcanic debris, all occur without an attendant sound. Because there is no air we cannot hear. Ten thousand volleys might be fired instantaneously, with a resultant vibration of the ground, but the prevailing silence would remain unbroken. It is indeed a world possessing conditions just the reverse of our own. Imagine there to be no water, no air, nothing to sustain life for a sin-

gle instant!

We see a world of mystery and destruction, riddled as is its surface with volcanic formations representing primeval forces, but maintaining their original characteristics and freshness owing to the absence of disintegrating elements. Nevertheless, it teaches one grand lesson in that it "exalts our estimation of this peopled globe of ours," writes Carpenter, "by showing us that all planetary worlds have not been deemed worthy to become the habitation of intelligent beings." So we mentally "come back to earth," perfectly content to have taken only an optical flight to the moon.

J. P. Hurry of Salisbury was here Tuesday.

Final Settlement Notice

Creditors and all others interested in the estate of John Callahan deceased, are hereby notified that at the next Regular term of the Chariton County Probate Court, to be begun and held on the second Monday in August, 1917, at the Court House in Keytesville, in said county, I shall make final settlement of said estate.

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Sunday School.....
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Christian
Rev. B. G. Rudd.....Pastor
Regular Services 1st and 3rd Sunday
Prayer Meeting.....Union
Sunday School.....

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Chief Police.....F. M. Veatch
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City Clerk.....Wallace Applegate
City Treasurer.....M. W. Anderson
Cemetery Supt.....M. W. Anderson

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South Ward—
C. P. Thrash Otto Everts
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Joe Carr, V. G.
M. S. Walther.....Sec'y.
M. W. Anderson.....Treas.
J. C. T. Kubo.....O. G.
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M. W. A.
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J. W. Taylor

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